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~~By SALT~~  
Brown, Harold

# U.S. could not verify compliance with SALT II for year, Brown says

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Washington—Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense, acknowledged yesterday that it will take "about a year" to duplicate lost Iranian facilities for checking on Soviet compliance with a new strategic arms limitation treaty.

Mr. Brown issued a statement that apparently was meant to be reassuring about United States ability to detect Soviet cheating, but that was not likely, in the opinion of observers, to soothe critics of the strategic arms pact.

In effect, the defense secretary seemed to concede that the administration was ready to enter into the treaty without the assured ability to monitor Russian missile activities that had existed before the loss of key sites near the Caspian Sea during the Iranian revolution. Those sites could watch around the clock, with electronic eyes, major Soviet test centers.

As Mr. Brown issued his statement, other administration sources were indicating that completion of the SALT pact was at hand. There have been many false predictions on this score but an official said yesterday: "This time we think we've got it."

Cyrus R. Vance, Secretary of State, is to return from a holiday tonight and is expected to confer tomorrow or Friday with Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador, on what are believed to be the two remaining issues—definitions of new types of missiles and treaty verification procedures. Each side is allowed one new type of missile under the treaty, but defining what is a new one rather than a modification of an old one has been a pesky problem for negotiators.

"We expect to conclude a treaty," Mr. Brown said in his statement, "that resolves satisfactorily the remaining provisions on verification and on new ICBM's [intercontinental ballistic missiles]."

"In that event, it is my judgment that our monitoring will be such as to provide adequate verification as to Soviet compliance with the curbs on new or modified ICBM's."

The Iranian sites, with their ability to monitor launching weight and nuclear payload weight of missiles were especially well fixed for such ICBM monitoring.

The government is trying to expedite alternative checking methods, including U-2 spy planes that would fly close enough to the Soviet Union to pick up vital test data.

Mr. Brown did not allude to the alternative means being developed. He noted that the Iranian sites had picked up various kinds of data about Soviet strategic missiles, "much of it connected with features that will be limited" under the SALT pact.

Much of it also was connected with military activities not covered by SALT, officials have said, and this will be hard to replace.

Mr. Brown said it would take until 1983 or 1984 to regain "all" monitoring capability lost in Iran.

"Regaining enough of it to verify adequately Soviet compliance with the provisions of SALT II, I estimate, will take about a year, again depending on how fast we can carry out monitoring programs under development," he said.

Mr. Brown's statement was issued yesterday after disclosure that Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of central intelligence, had told a closed session of the Senate Intelligence Committee that it would take until 1984 to duplicate the intelligence-gathering capabilities lost in Iran.

This testimony was seized on by SALT critics as evidence of the alleged inability to verify Soviet compliance with the pact. Mr. Brown's statement apparently was intended, among other purposes, to underline the distinction between monitoring related to SALT and that connected with gathering other military intelligence.

The SALT monitoring capability could be regained, not by 1984, but in about a year, according to his statement.

The SALT treaty, meanwhile, would have come into force by that time if the administration has its way. Officials said yesterday there would be no delay in sending it to the Senate.

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